



THE IRISH BRIDGE UNION **INTERNATIONAL TRIALS for 2026**

EUROPEAN NATIONAL MIXED TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS
Riga, Latvia June 26th – July 5th 2026 (or as updated in due course)

MIXED TRIAL DATES

The IBU International Committee are inviting teams to participate in trials for the 2026 European National Team Championships to be held in Dublin as outlined below.

The **Mixed Trials** will be a team event with no exemptions. Depending on the number of entries, it will be played over either one (1) or two (2) weekends.

Weekend 1 6th-8th February 2026 (Preferably Templeogue)

Weekend 2 27th-1st March 2026 (Preferably Templeogue)

Please note if there are six (6) or less teams entered, then the trials will be over one (1) weekend only and that weekend will be the first weekend **6th – 8th February 2026**. If there are more than 6 teams then the trials will be over 2 weekends with the top 4 qualifying to play in a Round Robin event on weekend two.

Entries are invited from teams of four (4) or six (6) players. Each player in a team of six must play at least 50% of the boards each weekend in order to qualify for an invitation to represent Ireland in the Open European National Team Championships.

Entries in writing must be submitted to: Dermot O'Brien, info@cbai.ie
or
Harold Curran, haroldcurran501@gmail.com
no later than 6th January 2026

The entry fee of €600 per team must be paid to Dermot O'Brien before **6th January 2026**.

Entries without the entrance fee paid by this date will not be accepted.

See the separate entry form for the additional information required when entering a team.

The winning team will be invited to represent Ireland in the European National Team Championships. If a team of four qualifies then the third pair will be selected by the International Committee, after consultation with the winning team, from the entrants for the trials. In addition, a reserve pair will also be nominated after consultation with the winning team as will the NPC.

Please note the Grants Approved from the IBU are €1,000 for each selected player representing Ireland at the European Mixed Team Championships as well as the NPC.

Some funding may be available for Coaching of the team but the NPC will need to apply to the IBU Committee with a proposal and idea in mind for further discussion with IBU Council.

The exact format of the trials will be announced after entries have been received but see Appendix 1.

Qualification Criteria

To be eligible to play in Irish trials for the European Mixed National Championships, all players on the team must be registered with the European Bridge League as an Irish player before trials commence.

The separate entry form supplied must be completed and submitted with your entry.

In addition, each player must have a minimum of 125 National Points or have won 50 National points in the past 3 years.

The International Committee will consider written applications for derogation from teams who do not meet these requirements. Such applications must set out in detail why those entrants consider their application for derogation is appropriate, and must be submitted to Dermot O'Brien, info@cbai.ie before **19th December 2025 – See appendix 1**

Please note all teams will NOT get to play on the second weekend and there are no exemptions or refunds

British Isles Trophy

The leading two teams eligible to represent the Republic of Ireland will be offered the two CBAI team spots for the British Isles Trophy, an online Camrose-style Mixed Teams event held for the first time last year, and scheduled to be played this year online over the weekend of 13-15 March. In the event that one or both of these teams cannot play, then the places will be offered in final ranking order to the other Republic of Ireland qualified teams. If four players from a team of six are eligible to represent the Republic of Ireland, then they will be offered the option to add another qualified pair, that played in the trials, to complete a team of six.

The separate entry form supplied must be completed and submitted with your entry.

In addition, each player must have a minimum of 125 National Points or have won 50 National points in the past 3 years.

The International Committee is empowered to alter any of the arrangements or conditions including time, dates and venue, and to decide on all matters affecting these trials. Each player who enters is undertaking to represent Ireland if nominated and to abide fully with all the conditions of these trials.

***Carol-Ann Cummins, Nuala Mooney, Derek O'Gorman, Paul Porteous, Diarmuid Reddan
(Convenor)***

- IBU International Committee

Appendix 1

1.1 Qualification :-

A team with a player or players without the required number of National Points (ie 125 national Points or 50 won in the past 3 years) can apply to the International Committee for a derogation as per the procedure outlined below.

- The application must be received no later than 19th December 2025.
- The entry fee of €600 must accompany the application.
- The application must detail why the pair or pairs consider their application appropriate and should detail recent results that they believe are of significance as well as any additional information they believe may be appropriate.
- It is important to mention results achieved while playing as a pair together.

After receiving the application the International Committee will make a decision as to whether or not they will accept the team.

Please note those that teams that are not accepted will get a full refund of their entry fee.

1.2 Format :-

For the benefit of all those entering the trials, once the entries are closed and the number of teams is known, it is envisaged that the format will be as follows :-

Mixed Trials

Please note that the proposed format for these events will be as follows :-

No of Teams	Weekend 1	Weekend 2
2	Straight Final (Sat/Sun)	None
3	Round Robin (Fri/Sat/Sun)	None
4	Round Robin (Fri/Sat/Sun)	None
5 – 6	Round Robin (Fri/Sat/Sun)	None
7 – 8	Round Robin (maybe Fri but Defo Sat/Sun)	4 Team Round Robin (Fri/Sat/Sun)
9 or more teams	Round Robin (maybe Fri but Defo Sat/Sun)	4 Team Round Robin (Fri/Sat/Sun)

The International Committee expects the times to be as follows-

Friday afternoon through to Sunday 6.00pm, however depending on the number of teams it is possible we will have to start earlier on the Friday. We will confirm the exact format on 13th January (1 week after closing date) after all entries are received. If the start time is a deciding factor for you, the Committee do not see a start time earlier than 10.00 am on Friday morning and play will definitely be finished by 6.00 pm Sunday of both weekends.

1.3 Systems

Please note that the Supplementary conditions of contest will also be issued on 13th January 2026 and please note Brown Sticker conventions & Hums will be allowed but these conventions will need to be submitted along with proposed defences before 16th January 2026

All other pairs system cards need to be submitted 2 weeks before the first weekend ie 23rd January 2026.

1.4 Substitutes

Subject to the approval of the International Committee (I.C.), a substitute may be allowed in emergency circumstances for a limited number of boards. A substitution, which in the opinion of the I.C. significantly affects the strength/weakness of a pair, is unlikely to be approved.

If a suitable substitute cannot be found for a match, the Tournament Director will award a score of 12 V.P. or such higher percentage achieved in the round robin, to the non-offending team for that match.

Requests for substitutes for what the I.C. considers to be convenience reasons will **not** be approved. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the T.D. is empowered to make emergency substitutions.